



3. Existing Parks

The City of Hurst has 22 existing developed and undeveloped parks that are dedicated to the provision of outdoor recreation facilities. These parks range in size from the 2 acre Windmill Park for passive recreation to large active recreation parks like Chisholm Park that is 50 acres in size. The total acreage of all developed parks serving the citizens of Hurst exceeds 220 acres and includes 6 developed Neighborhood Parks, 3 Community Parks and 3 Special Purpose Parks. Land dedicated to parks that are currently undeveloped totals 57 acres and includes 5 Neighborhood Parks and 4 Linear Parks.

Purpose of the Existing Parks and Open Space Inventory - A key part of the park planning process is to understand what park and open space facilities are currently available, and to assess the current condition of those facilities and whether or not they are addressing the current park and open space needs of the city. By comparing the available park facilities with the number of people that the parks system serves, the need for new or improved recreational facilities can be determined.

Components of the Existing Parks Inventory - This “inventory” of existing parks reviews several aspects of each park in the Hurst system. These are:

- **Classification:** What is the purpose of a given park? Is it intended to serve a local neighborhood around it, giving children and young adults a place to play? Is it intended to serve a much larger population, providing fields for organized league play? How was the

3.1 Introduction

*What is available?
What is its condition?
How does it meet the
current need?*



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park originally classified, and is that classification still warranted today? The answer to these questions determine whether a park should be classified as a neighborhood park, a community park, a special purpose park, a regional park or a linear park.

■ **Location:** Where is the park located in relation to the population that it serves? Is it accessible?

■ **Service Area:** What are the limits of the area served by each park? Are there any major thoroughfares or physical features that create barriers to accessing the park?

■ **Size of the Park:** How big is the park? Is it large enough to adequately accomplish its intended purpose?

■ **Amenities in each Park:** What does the park contain? Are the facilities appropriate for the type of park? For example, a ball field complex requiring a large amount of parking should not be contained in a neighborhood park, where the noise, traffic and nighttime lighting create a nuisance for residents of that neighborhood.

■ **Layout:** Is the arrangement of facilities in each park appropriate?

■ **Condition of the Park:** What is the general condition of the facilities in each park?

■ **Special Considerations:** Does the park provide facilities for the physically challenged that meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act?

These issues are reviewed here for each of the existing parks in the Hurst parks system. This inventory is developed from on-site reviews of each individual park by the Planning Team and cursory reviews conducted by the City staff.



A concrete surface trail in Rickel Park.



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3.2 **Park Classification**

National and state guidelines identify three broad categories of parks, which are:

Local, Close to Home Space, usually located within the community served by the facility, which includes mini/pocket parks, neighborhood parks and community parks;

Regional Space, usually located within an hour or two driving distance. Parks in this category serve a number of communities, and include regional metropolitan parks and regional park reserves; and

Unique Space, which may be either local or regional in nature. These parks can be defined as areas that are unique in some way, whether because of physical features or because of the types of facilities provided. Parks in this category may include linear parks, special use parks, or land conservancies.

The category “Close to home parks” is the most important category and is of the greatest immediate concern to the City of Hurst. Close to home parks address day to day facilities for all ages and activities, and are usually within walking or driving distance from where we live. The two close to home park types currently existing in Hurst are:

Close to home parks are the most important, addressing day-to-day facilities for all ages and activities.

- Neighborhood parks (including mini/pocket parks) e.g. Jaycee-Baker Park
- Community parks e.g. Hurst Community Park

A description of the general types of parks included in the Hurst parks system follows:

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks provide the foundation for recreation in the **Local Close to Home** park system. Ideally, they provide amenities and recreation space for the entire family, but are within easy walking or cycling distance of the people they serve.

The neighborhood park typically serves one large or several smaller neighborhoods. The ideal neighborhood park in Hurst, generally 5 to 10 acres in size, should serve no more than 3,000 to 4,000 residents per park. In Hurst, Redbud Park is a good example of a neighborhood park.



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- Neighborhood parks should be accessible to residents who live within a one-half mile radius of the park. Ideally neighborhood park facilities should be located within a quarter mile radius of the residents who will use those facilities.
- Neighborhood parks are frequently located adjacent to elementary schools, so as to share acquisition and development costs with the school district. In addition, adjacencies of park and school grounds allow for joint use and sharing of facilities. It also lends itself to the community's involvement with the school grounds and vice versa. This often leads to a synergistic result that adds to the quality of life for everyone.
- Neighborhood parks are generally located away from major arterial streets and provide easy access for the users that surround it. A neighborhood park should be accessible without having to cross major arterial streets.

Neighborhood Parks should be accessible without crossing major arterial streets.

Size - The size of a neighborhood park may vary considerably due to physical locations around the park. An ideal size for neighborhood parks in Hurst should be approximately five acres. Neighborhood parks may range in size from a minimum of two acres to a maximum of 10 acres. In general, the size of the existing neighborhood parks in Hurst is well within the desired range of sizes.

Location - If possible, neighborhood parks should be centrally located in neighborhoods they serve. An ideal location, for example, is adjacent to an elementary school. It is noticeable that only Bellaire Park South is located next to an elementary school. The undeveloped Hurst Hills Park is located adjacent to an elementary school with the same name. Neighborhood Parks should be accessible to pedestrian traffic from all parts of the area served, and should be located adjacent to local or minor collector streets which do not allow high-speed traffic.

An ideal location for a neighborhood park is adjacent to an elementary school.

Amenities - Amenities generally located in neighborhood parks may include the following:

- Playground equipment with adequate safety surfacing around the playground
- Unlighted practice fields for baseball, soccer, football, softball, etc.
- Unlighted tennis courts
- Unlighted multi-purpose courts and fields
- Active areas for unorganized play
- Picnic areas with benches, picnic tables and cooking grills
- Shaded pavilions and gazebos
- Jogging and exercise trails
- Security lighting



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Jaycee Baker Park is an example of a well conceived neighborhood park

Parking – Should vary based on the size of the park and facilities provided. A minimum of eight spaces per neighborhood park is recommended with an additional two handicapped parking spaces. This calculation is based on the recommendation of 5 spaces for the first two acres, and 1 space for each additional acre. However the exact amount of parking needed will vary based on the size of the park, the facilities it contains and the number of users.

Figure 3.1 on the following page illustrates a typical neighborhood park and some of the elements that the park might contain. Note that this is simply a typical arrangement, and each neighborhood park should be designed as a unique part of the neighborhood that surrounds it.

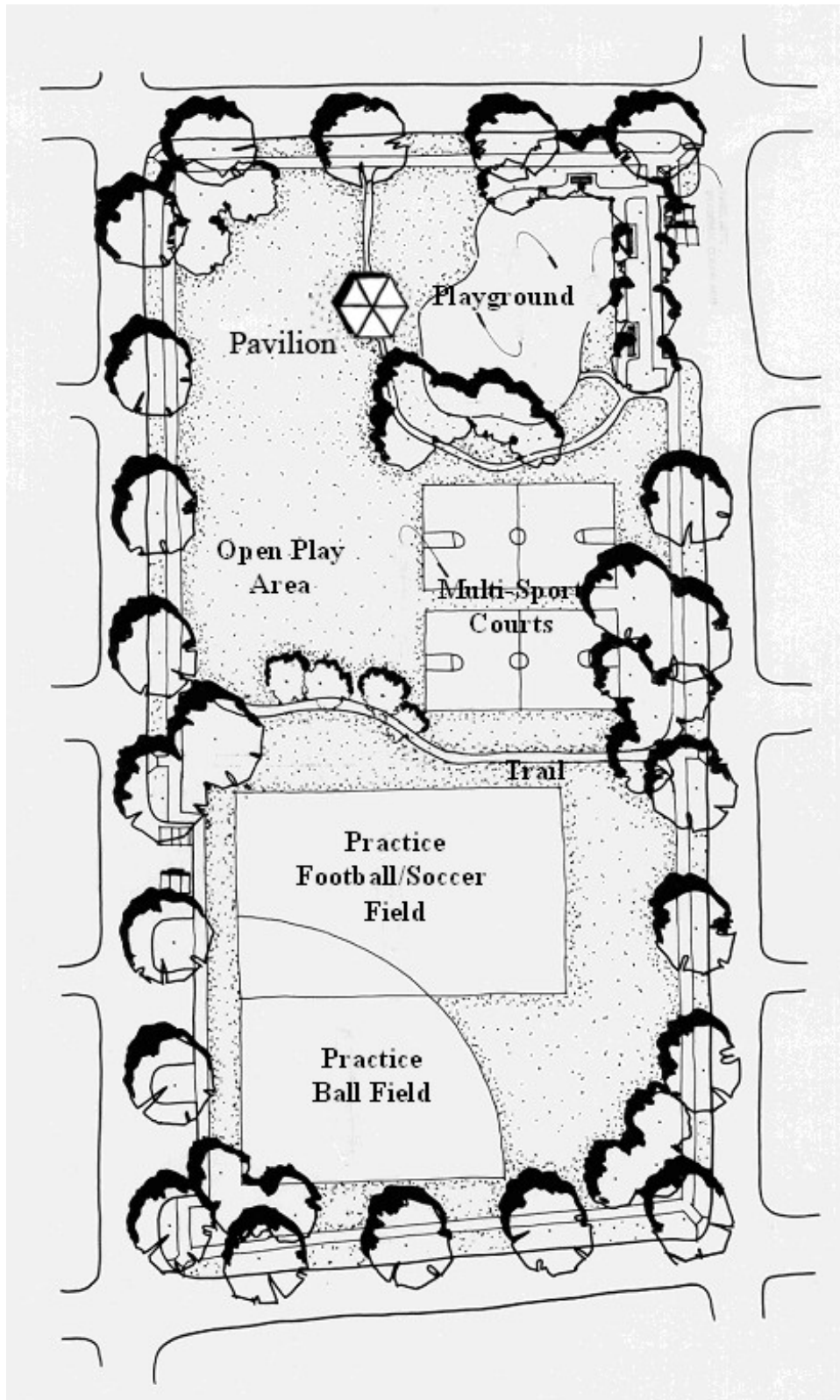


Figure 3.1 Typical Neighborhood Park



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Community Parks

Community parks are larger parks that serve a group of neighborhoods or a portion of a city. Community parks are usually reached by automobile, although residents adjacent to the park and trail users may walk or cycle to it. A variety of recreational facilities are provided, including in some cases, lighted playing fields for organized sports, hike/bike trails and sufficient parking to accommodate participants, spectators, and other park users.

Chisholm Park is an example of an ideal community park. At 50 acres it is large enough to provide a variety of facilities for active and passive recreation. The fishing pond is a huge draw for park users, either to stroll around its edge or to fish. In fact, it is so much enjoyed that residents from neighboring cities specially make an effort to visit this park.

Size – The typical community park should be large enough so it can provide a variety of amenities while still leaving open space for unstructured recreation and natural areas. The park should also have room for expansion, as new facilities are required. A typical community park varies in size from 10 acres to over 50 acres.

Location – Community parks should be located near a major thoroughfare to provide easy access from different parts of the city. Because of the potential for noise and bright lights at night, community parks should be buffered from adjacent residential areas.

Amenities – Amenities generally located in community parks may include:

- Play equipment
- Active free play areas
- Picnic areas and pavilion(s)
- Restrooms
- Jogging, bicycle or nature trails
- Lighted ball fields, suitable for organized competitive events
- Recreation center (if appropriate)
- Sufficient off-street parking based on facilities provided and size of park
- Security lighting
- Other facilities as needed which can take advantage of the unique characteristics of the site, such as nature trails or fishing adjacent to ponds, swimming pools, amphitheaters etc.

Parking – This varies based on the facilities provided and the size of park. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommends a minimum of five spaces per acre, plus additional parking for specific facilities within the park such as pools or ball fields. The specific amount of parking provided in each park should be determined by the facilities provided in that park.



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Figure 3.2 on this page illustrates a typical community park and some of the elements that the park might contain. Note that this is simply a typical arrangement, and each community park should be designed as a unique part of the community.

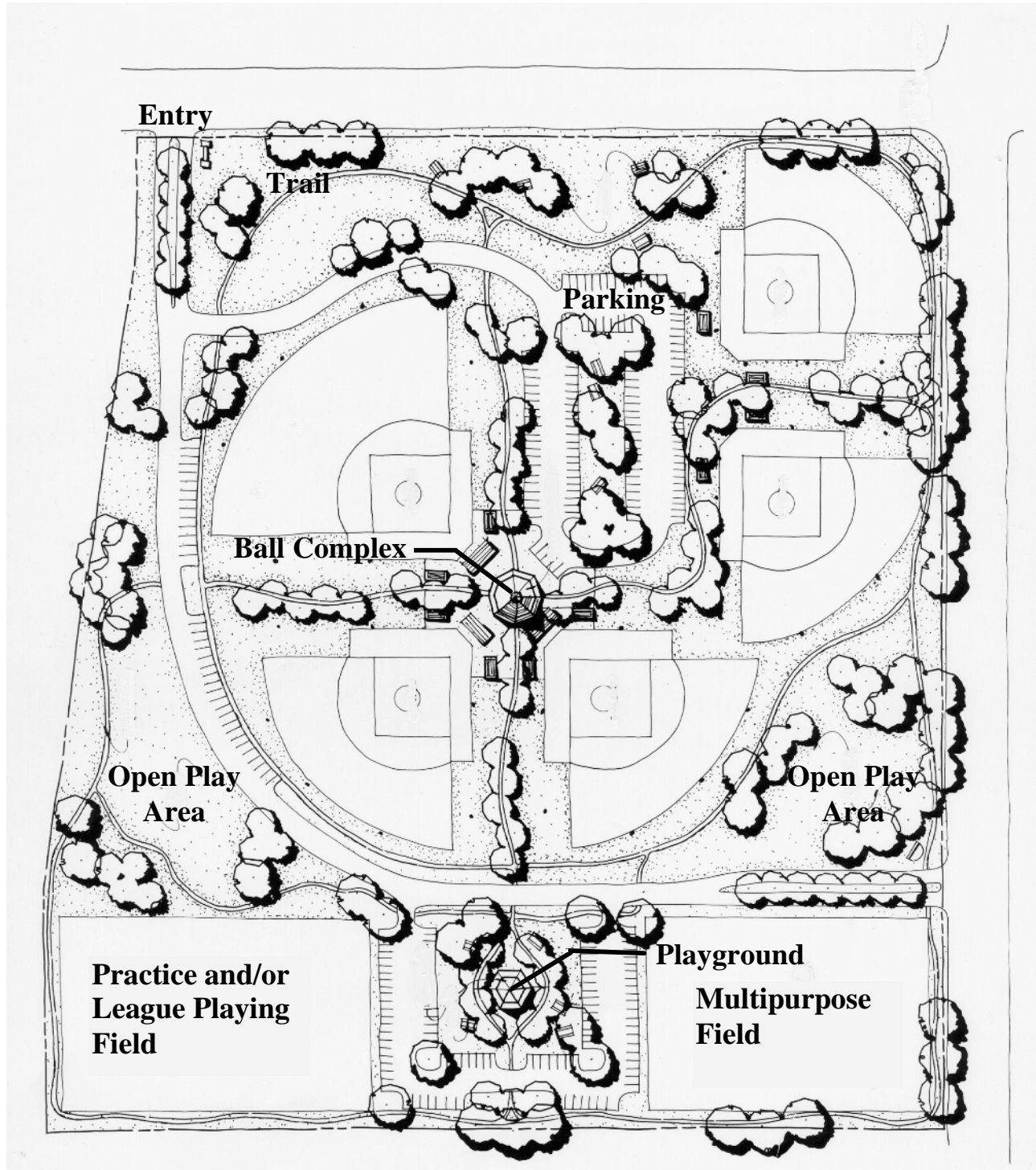


Figure 3.2 Typical Community Park



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Linear Parks including Hike and Bike Trails

Linear parks are open park areas that generally follow some natural or man-made feature that is linear in nature, such as creeks, abandoned railroad rights-of-way or power line or utility corridor easements. Properly developed to facilitate pedestrian and bicycle travel, these parks can serve to link or connect other parks in the local system, as well as schools, libraries, and other major destinations. No specific standards apply to linear/linkage parks other than to be large enough to adequately accommodate the resources they follow. They can also serve as linear greenbelts, which preserve open space.



Two manmade elements that are typically utilized for a linear park or trail include railway and utility lines. The Cottonbelt railway and TXU utility lines are examples in Hurst.

Special Purpose Parks

Special purpose parks are designed to accommodate specialized recreational activities. Because the facility needs for each activity type are different, each special purpose park usually provides for one or a few activities. Examples of special purpose parks include:

- Golf courses
- Athletic fields or complexes
- Nature centers or large natural preserves
- Swimming pool centers
- Tennis complexes
- Dog parks
- Skate parks
- Cemeteries

Athletic complexes and golf courses are the most common types of special purpose parks. Athletic complexes seek to provide fields for



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organized play in a location that can accommodate the traffic and noise that a large number of users can generate. Athletic complexes should include sufficient fields so that leagues can congregate at one facility and not have to spread out in different locations. Special purpose parks in Hurst include Hurst Athletic Complex and Rickel Park.



The Hurst Athletic Complex is an example of a Special Purpose Park.

Pocket Parks

Pocket parks are small green gathering spaces ranging from 1/8 acre to 1 acre. Due to the size of this type of park, parking is typically not provided. Therefore, pocket parks are accessed by pedestrian and bicycle means. Benches, fountains, landscaping, and other focal features are common items found in these parks. Size is not the key factor of the typical pocket park, but rather the quality of the landscaping and features that go into the park. The open space with the pavilion in front of the Hurst Public Library is an example of a pocket park.

The open space at the library is an example of a pocket park.

The parks system in Hurst includes 12 city-owned developed parks totaling more than 220 acres of land. An additional 56 acres of undeveloped land are dedicated to future neighborhood parks (+/- 26 acres) and Linear Parks (+/- 30 acres).

3.3 Size of the Park System in Hurst

Neighborhood Parks in Hurst

Hurst has six developed neighborhood parks that constitute a total of 36.9 acres. Land acquired by the City and dedicated to four future neighborhood parks totals 26.5 acres.

Community Parks in Hurst

Three community parks are provided in Hurst. Community park acreage in Hurst totals 112.4 acres.



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Linear Parks in Hurst

Hurst has no developed linear parks. Land dedicated to three future linear parks totals 30.15 acres. No acreage is dedicated to the two additional linear parks including the Cottonbelt Trail and the Little Bear Creek trail, both of which will be constructed along easements.

Special Purpose Parks in Hurst

The special purpose parks in Hurst ranges in size from 2 acres (Windmill Park) to 42.2 acres (Hurst Athletic Complex). Special purpose park acreage in Hurst totals 73.2 acres.

Pocket Parks in Hurst

Hurst has a number of smaller spaces adjacent to various city facilities that constitutes pocket parks. One such park is the open space and pavilion in front of the Hurst Public Library.



Open space and pavilion in front of the Hurst Public Library constitutes a pocket park.

Cemeteries in Hurst

Hurst contains two cemeteries. Parker Cemetery is City owned and City operated, while Arwine Cemetery is privately owned and operated.

School Parks in Hurst

The information of school grounds and recreation facilities managed by the HEB Independent School District and Tarrant County Community College is provided in Table 3.2.



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HEBISD playground facilities provided at Bellaire Elementary School.

Table 3.1 is a summary of park acreage and park facilities per individual park. Table 3.2 describes existing recreational facilities at schools in Hurst.

The following is a detailed description of each park. The parks and parkland are discussed according to the categories of Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, Special Purpose Parks, Linear Parks, Regional Parks and Open Space.

Maps illustrate the location of all the existing developed and undeveloped parks and highlight the area that they service in Hurst (see maps at the end of each section that describes the different parks). The following service areas are depicted for each type of park:

- Neighborhood Parks - one-half mile radius
- Community Parks - one mile radius
- Special Purpose Parks - one and one-half mile radius
- Linear Parks - one-half mile radius

Additional city open space is described as municipal sites, city cemeteries and specialized recreation centers. Since the land associated with municipal sites is generally earmarked for future expansion of the city facilities, the land acreage is typically not counted towards the City's overall park acreage.

3.4 Description of Developed and Undeveloped Parks